

"Victims of violent crimes suffer tremendous physical, emotional and psychological difficulties during the healing process," Sen. Landrieu said. "As Congress takes steps to enhance crime prevention, we must also ensure that victims and their families have the resources to make a full recovery. This \$1 million will help the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement continue its important work."

"No one plans to be a crime victim, and survivors often don't have the resources to rebuild their lives on their own," Rep. Melancon said. **"This funding will boost critical crime victim programs throughout Louisiana, giving more survivors access to services that will help them along the path to recovery. As we continue working to fight crime in Louisiana, grants like these will also help meet the needs of victims who suffer long after the case is closed."**

Through the Recovery Act, Louisiana will receive \$792,000 for crime victim assistance. This grant program was designed to provide financial assistance to states to help crime victims through comprehensive services. These funds will be used statewide through non-profit organizations that provide direct services to victims of crime. Specifically, they will be used to: respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims; assist primary and secondary victims of crime to stabilize their lives after victimization; help victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and provide victims of crime with a measure of safety and security, such as boarding up broken windows and replacing and repairing locks. Priority areas are spousal abuse, sexual assault, child abuse, and previously underserved victims.

The Louisiana Crime Victims Reparations Fund will be allocated \$233,894 through the Recovery Act. This program helps innocent victims and their families who have suffered out of pocket expenses as a result of being a victim of a violent crime. The fund is administered by the Crime Victims Reparations Board under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement.

"As we take time to reflect during National Crime Victims' Right week, April 26 - May 2, the Commission on Law Enforcement is committed to a comprehensive approach to victim services offered through our assistance, compensation and automated victim notification programs," said Judy Dupuy, Executive Director of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement. "The Commission also offers a toll-free number (888-6-VICTIM) for those citizens who wish to learn about our compensation program. Please visit our website at www.lcle.la.gov to learn more about our programs."

In addition to releasing more than \$1 million of Louisiana's victim assistance and compensation programs, Attorney General Eric Holder recognized the staff of the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, Police Social Services Section, in Thibodaux, La., for their efforts on behalf of crime victims. The ceremony was a prelude to the nation's observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 26-May 2, 2009.

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